

UNLOCK THE HOTEL LEO
AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - EVENING

A group of guests enter the hotel lobby doors. There is a quiet rustle of excitement among them and the adventure that is upon them. A TOUR GUIDE, timeless in nature and dressed in vintage bellhop attire, spots them from afar and rushes to greet them warmly.

TOUR GUIDE

Welcome to The Heart of Bellingham: The Hotel Leo.

The tour guide greets them warmly by name -

TOUR GUIDE

(gracious)

We're so thankful you've come to help us out! We'll journey up to the library very soon to examine the cryptic letter we discovered. But first, I'd like to point out some of the unique features of this very special place.

The once named Hotel Byron was purchased by Leopold Schmidt in 1910 for \$100,000 and a 200-room addition was constructed in 1913, just one year before Leo's untimely death in this hotel. But some say he never left...

The Tour Guide pauses dramatically, delighted to be in possession of this knowledge and excited to share with the guests. The Tour Guide then picks up the energy, referring to some images on the wall of the hotel

TOUR GUIDE

As you will see, this 9-story structure was constructed in 1929 on top of the original 1899 foundation which remains in the basement. This project was completed in just seven short months and this building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

The Tour Guide ushers the group towards the upper Lobby.

TOUR GUIDE

(dramatic)

Imagine with me for a moment...a simpler time...

1920's phonograph music begins echoing throughout the lobby

It's 1929...and the hotel doesn't look much different than it does now due to the recent incredible restoration. The original tile still lines the floors and walls...

The recent opening of the hotel has generated a buzz and attracted visitors from all over the country.

The Hotel Leo quickly becomes the premier place to stay and play in Bellingham.

1920's hotel hustle and bustle overlay the music - Chatter, Bells Ding, Carts Roll, Keys Jingle

TOUR GUIDE

As you may or may not know, Leopold was a local brewer, owner of Bellingham Bay Brewing as well as Olympia Beer down in Tumwater, Washington where his family estate remains to this day.

In the early 1900's, Leo made the decision to diversify his business portfolio to hotels when he saw Prohibition on the horizon...smart man!

Of course, his previous business dealings did not come without gossip. His new hotel venture was much maligned by the tabloids. But a man of fortitude like Leo was not one to let bad press sully his efforts to host excellent guest experiences.

And a little-known fact, this historic hotel housed the first bar in Bellingham to open after Prohibition, The Pioneer Room, right over here. It was also the inspiration for the brand-new Amendment 21: a slick, 1920's-style lounge and bar to satisfy all your speakeasy desires.

TOUR GUIDE

Now, as you can imagine nearly a century later, this hotel has held a staggering number of incredible stories and prestigious guests. And as you follow me this way, we shall explore all that its walls contain.

INT. ROSE ROOM - EVENING

The Tour Guide gathers the group around a vintage 1920's projector.

TOUR GUIDE

We'll begin our tour momentarily. But first, please enjoy this short orientation film.

The projector flickers onto a screen, and an old informational-style video begins to play:

1920's RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Welcome to The Heart of Bellingham, The Hotel Leo.

We are thrilled that you've chosen to join us for the adventure of a lifetime... we've been waiting for you.

As you journey through this historic hotel, we hope you will allow yourself to be drawn into the stories it holds. For now, by entering these doors, you have become an important part of this story as well.

But, before your journey begins, we would like to go over some guidelines to make your stay with us more enjoyable.

Static and a quick flash of images momentarily interrupt the video.

1920's RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

During your tour, please remain with your Guide at all times. In such a large space, it can be easy to get lost. And we would hate for anything unfortunate to happen to you while you are here...

As your Guide leads you on your tour, they may Ask for your participation. Please know that you are welcome to participate at any level you feel comfortable.

Be sure to keep your eyes peeled throughout this tour. There are many intriguing secrets hidden in the shadows at The Hotel Leo so be sure to look all around you for anything that could be of importance to you.

Strange symbols and words flash on the screen.

Also, during parts of this tour, you will have the opportunity to interact with treasures and artifacts from over the last century. Please, be kind and know, there is never any need to use excessive force on any of these objects.

In addition, if you see this symbol [*do not touch*], please refrain from touching the indicated object as it may be delicate or cause you extreme bodily harm.

Lastly, please respect all instructions from your Tour Guide along the way. They will be your guiding light in this adventure, so feel free to ask them any questions you may have as the tour progresses. And, if at any point you feel uncomfortable and would like to leave, just let us know and we'll be happy to assist you.

Again, we are so thankful you've decided to come and we hope by the end of your tour today, you'll truly understand your place in this exciting story.

The projector clicks off and ramps down.

TOUR GUIDE

Thank you, folks; let's begin the tour this way.

The Guide leads the group through the upper lobby into the Ballroom.

Whispers of voices and sounds echo through the walls and vents.

TOUR GUIDE

It is said that some of the stories of The Hotel Leo remain trapped in her walls. So, maybe if you listen closely and ask nicely, she'll tell you some of them.

The group continues to:

INT: BALLROOM - EVENING

TOUR GUIDE

From its inception until now, the Leo - and in particular, the ballroom - has been the spot for conventions and weddings to large gatherings of important societies, Designed to amplify sound through the room from the stage, the ballroom has a unique way of carrying acoustics to ensure all could hear.

The sounds of 1920's music and dinner service echo through the walls. The group is led back into the Rose Room.

TOUR GUIDE

It's really lovely to have you all here with us tonight, and honestly, I'm getting a good feeling from this group. Now that you are acquainted with the hotel, It's time we get to work. This way please.

The group climbs two sets of stairs and opens doors to...

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

TOUR GUIDE

And now...the moment you have all been waiting for: the mysterious letter..

The group gathers around a cryptic letter, encased in glass.

TOUR GUIDE

You see, Leopold Schmidt wasn't just a brew master... there have long been rumors that he also founded a secret society, a cloak-and-dagger gathering of powerful men and moguls from all over the country. A couple of members to note are Henry Schupp, the manager of Hotel Leo, and C.X. Larrabee, the founder of Fairhaven. Although the specifics of their whispers behind closed doors are unknown, it was said that the hotel was used as the headquarters and gathering place for these meetings.

Recently discovered beneath the original foundation, this letter fragment is the only proof that the society ever existed. You'll see at the top, an emblem emblazoned containing Leo's famous Bee...a nod to Bellingham Bay Brewing... and a Latin phrase roughly translating to: "The Pioneer Society".

We've deduced that the cryptic symbols are some sort of coded message, but we haven't had any luck figuring it out. If you could ban together as a team to help us, we'd be forever indebted to you... particularly with the strange events of late that have been occurring in the hotel...whispers and sightings un unseen and unheard...things.

Please use anything here in the library to assist you in decoding this cryptic letter.